its potential in growth of export of leather products and generation of employment. With a view to develop and modernize the infrastructure facilities in leather sector for capacity augmentation and aggressive marketing, the Government has initiated a number of measures which *inter-alia* includes Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP), financial assistance under Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and allied activities (ASIDE), special focus initiatives as announced in National Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 and financial support to the exporters under Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDAS) and Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAIS).

Crisis in sugar industry due to ban on export

2278. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ongoing ban on sugar export has put the sugar industry in crisis;

(b) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of 40 lakh tonnes of sugar has accumulated in factories across the country in addition to the forecast of a bumper sugar crop for this season; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make use of the 40 lakh tonnes of accumulated sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Excise Authorities have reported that, as on 30.9.2006, there was a stock of about 43.64 lakh tonnes (provisional) with the sugar mills of the country. However, a quantity of 46.26 lakh tonnes (5.26 lakh tonnes as levy and 41 lakh tonnes as non-levy) has already been released for the months of October to December, 2006.

Special scheme for Agri exports

2279. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched any special scheme to increase the export of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the names of agricultural products included in the said scheme and the incentives extended to the exporters;

(c) the total value of the agricultural produces exported during the last two years from Andhra Pradesh and the export expected to increase in response to the new scheme;

(d) whether there has been successive decline in the export of agricultural products during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09, Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana was announced to promote export of Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Minor Forest produce and their value added products. Dairy, Poultry and their value added products were added on 01.04.2005 and Gram Udyog products were included on 1st April, 2006 for the benefits under the scheme renamed as Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana. The scheme provides a duty free credit entitlement incentive of 5% (*w.e.f.* 01.04.2006, in case agricultural inputs are imported the benefits is 3.5%) on FOB value on export of products listed in Appendix 37A of the Handbook of Procedures Vol. I.

(c) to (e) While there is no State-wise segregated data maintained in the data bank of this Ministry, the overall export of agricultural products during the last three years has not declined as shown in the export data sheet given in the Statement.

Statement

Export of Agricultural Items

Values in Rs. Lacs

Sl. No.	HS Code	Commodity	2003-2004	2004-05	2005-2006	2006-2007 (Apr-Jun)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1	Live Animals	2062.88	2413.92	2654.54	828.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	2	Meat and edible meat offal	169389.76	171972.33	272947.22	72526.41
3	3	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertabrates	568095.28	569271.00	629203.81	115764.84
4	4	Dairy produce; Birds' Eggs; Natural Honey; Edible prod. of animal origin, not elsewhere spec. or included	40970.83	67718.01	110677.52	16772.89
5	5	Products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	17243.51	15875.32	18196.46	4934.33
6	6	Live trees and other plants; bulbs; roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage	25046.74	21270.21	30144.64	7404.00
7	7	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	151001.19	163406.92	251415.27	75432.71
8	8	Edible fruit and nuts; Peel or citrus fruit or Melons	254668.75	321169.61	376341.66	102387.23
9	9	Coffee, Tea, Mate and Spices	329157.48	358188.08	400724.06	124507.12
10	10	Cereals	695668.07	893361.89	723261.44	140431.50
11	11	Products of the milling industry; Malt; Starches; Inulin; Wheat Gluten	47172.60	19442.84	12755.20	3840.35
12	12	Oil seeds and olea fruits; Misc. Grains, Seeds and fruit; Industrial or medicinal plants; Straw and Fodder	205240.77	163119.94	186546.61	51817.24
13	13	Lac; Gums, Resins and other Vegetable saps and extracts	111339.64	143662.86	176600.27	39887.87
14	14	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		products not elsewhere specified or included	8839.22	10156.18	10165.74	2931.13
15	15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; Pre. edible fats; Animal or vegetable waxes	98386.01	146950.50	123946.27	36643.56
16	16	Preparations of meat of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	40986.47	49361.28	72469.49	23410.91
17	17	Sugars and sugar confectionery	133057.68	24682.07	74613.37	175154.55
18	18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	1947.83	2869.01	2480.23	1180.66
19	19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; Pastrycooks products	31292.41	38224.57	54284.29	13594.39
20	20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	39480.11	41810.59	68328.76	21119.45
21	21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	62808.46	58899.79	77483.91	19447.47
22	22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	12507.03	13692.72	25820.48	6371.48
23	23	Residues and waste from the food industries; Prepared animal foder	340033.40	317242.42	497137.22	78811.94
24	24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	109647.06	124210.19	133065.61	40029.76
		TOTAL:	3496043.18	3738972.25	4331264.07	1175230.02

Export of iron-ore

2280. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) why the iron-ore is being exported from the Orissa Port, Haldia Port and Goa port in large scale;

(b) whether Government would add value to the iron-ore before exports and create jobs for people of the country;